

Message Text

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12

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 AF-10 IO-15 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

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P R 041041Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9958

DIA WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT CAIRO

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 7697

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, SY, EG, IS

SUBJ: SYRIAN AND EGYPTIAN MILITARY ACTIVITY

REF: BEIRUT 11526

1. IN GENERAL REVIEW OF ARAB WORLD DEVELOPMENTS WITH EMBOFF
OCT 3 (BEFORE RECEIPT OF REFTEL), MID EAST AFFAIRS
DIRECTOR VERED OF FONMIN TOOK RELAXED VIEW TOWARD
POSSIBILITY OF MILITARY ACTION AGAINST ISRAEL BY ARAB STATES IN
FORESEEABLE FUTURE. NOTHING SHE SAID SUGGESTED ANY ISRAELI
CONCERN ABOUT A POSSIBLE DELIBERATE FANNING OF TENSIONS BY ANY
FACTOR, SUCH AS SOVIETS (REFTEL).

2. RE SYRIAN MILITARY ACTIVITY NEAR GOLAN CEASEFIRE LINE, MRS
VERED SAID THERE HAD BEEN SOME BUILDUP AND INCREASE IN
ALERT STATUS FOLLOWING SEPTEMBER 13 SYRIAN-ISRAELI AIR CLASH.
ISRAELIS ASCRIBED THIS TO SYRIAN DESIRE TO BE READIER FOR
ANY FUTURE MILITARY INCIDENTS OF ANY KIND. THERE MIGHT ALSO
HAVE BEEN A LIMITED DEGREE OF SYRIAN HANKERING FOR A SUCCESSFUL
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GROUND ACTION, IRRATIONAL AS SUCH EXPECTATION MIGHT BE.

3. MRS VERED SAID ISRAELI ANALYSTS WERE CONFIDENT THAT VOICES OF REASON IN DAMASCUS WOULD CONTINUE TO PREVAIL AND CONSIDERED ALLEGED LINGERING OF TENSION ALONG CEASEFIRE LINE TO BE MAINLY DELAYED REACTION OF JOURNALISTS. DAYAN LAST WEEK AT ONE POINT WAS NOT INCLINED WHOLLY TO DISCOUNT SYRIAN IRRATIONAL FACTOR, SHE ADDED, BUT SHE IMPLIED THAT DAYAN TOO WAS NO LONGER AT ALL CONCERNED.

4. AS FOR EGYPT, MRS VERED SAID ISRAELI PRESS REPORTS THAT THERE HAD BEEN EGYPTIAN MILITARY ALERT LAST WEEK ALONG NORTH AND CENTRAL SUEZ CANAL SECTORS WERE CORRECT: THIS WAS GESTURE OF SOLIDARITY WITH SYRIAN AND ALSO WAS EXTRA PRECAUTION IN EVENT A SYRIAN-ISRAELI FLAREUP SHOULD LEAD TO INCIDENT ALONG CANAL. HOWEVER, SADAT REGIME IN MRS VERED'S OPINION WAS CURRENTLY PREOCCUPIED MAINLY WITH INTERNAL AFFAIRS.
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